

MINUTES
POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
January 18, 2012

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee was held at the Health Related Boards, 227 French Landing, HRB Conference Room, Nashville, TN 37243.

Members Present: Donna J. Lovitt, PSGT
Donald A. Samples, Ed.D.
Bryan P. Hughes, PSGT
Natasha C. Webb, PSGT
Madelyn Cunningham, Consumer Member

Member Absent: Kristin W. Lester, PSGT
Roxanne M. Valentino, M.D.

Staff Present: Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director
Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager
Kimberly Hodge, Administrator

The Committee convened at 10:00 am. A quorum was present and Mr. Samples, the acting Chair, called the meeting to order with a roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2011 Committee meeting. Ms. Lovitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Ms. Rosemarie Otto reviewed the Committee's financial statement and advised them that they closed the year with a deficit of \$8,745.35. It is anticipated that the previously authorized increase in fees should be sufficient to allow the Committee to become self-sufficient.

Polysomnographic Course Providers

The following course providers appeared at the meeting:

1. Miller-Motte Technical College-Lois Stanfill, polysomnography program Director, and Gina Castleberry, Campus Director in Clarksville, were present to discuss and answer questions regarding the Miller-Motte program. Miller-Motte has been accredited since 2010 and is accredited through 2015. Miller-Motte currently accepts up to fifteen (15) students per quarter, and less than 10% of the students in the polysomnography program reside outside of Tennessee. The polysomnography program graduates students every quarter. Miller-Motte's clinical training has been set up to be performed in sleep labs that are located in the Clarksville area and in Kentucky. Ms. Castleberry informed the Committee that Miller-Motte is currently doing tentative research into the feasibility of expanding into the Chattanooga area.

2. Roane State Community College-Donna Plumlee, polysomnography program Director, was present to discuss and answer questions regarding the Roane State program. The Roane State program has been in existence for fifteen (15) years and has been accredited since May 2010. Roane State currently admits up to twenty (20) students per year into the polysomnography program. The program is a one (1) year certificate program with a 75% to 80% retention rate.

3. Volunteer State Community College-Mel Matthews, polysomnography program Director, was present to discuss and answer questions regarding the Volunteer State program. The Volunteer State Program currently admits up to twenty (20) students per year into the Middle Tennessee Program as well as twenty (20) students per year into the West Tennessee Program. The West Tennessee Program, which is only available to students residing in the West Tennessee area, is an online didactic program that offers courses separate from the Middle Tennessee program. Mr. Matthews is the clinical instructor in Middle Tennessee program and Keyla Ingram is the clinical instructor at the West Tennessee program. Both programs are approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

4. East Tennessee State University-Donald Samples discussed and answered questions regarding the East Tennessee program. The East Tennessee program has been in existence since 2005. The program is primarily on line, but students are required to attend class once (1) a month for their laboratory clinical work. The East Tennessee program currently admits up to twenty (20) students per year with a 75% retention rate and uses most of the sleep labs in the tri-cities. The program is a one (1) year certificate program that takes 10 months to complete.

Mr. John Smith, Chief Deputy for the Office of General Counsel and Ms. Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Assistant General Counsel and the Committee's advisory attorney informed the Committee that Tenn. Code Ann. Sect. 63-31-106 requires that four accredited programs be in place on or before July 1, 2012 as a condition precedent to the elimination of the A-STEP program as an avenue to licensure in Tennessee.

There was a question raised as to whether the Volunteer State Program in West Tennessee is CAAHEP approved and counts as a separate polysomnographic technologist educational program from the Middle Tennessee program. The opinion of the Assistant General Counsel was that Volunteer State has a physical presence in West Tennessee, and, therefore, the conditions have been met for the termination of the A-Step program. Nevertheless, the Committee's administrative office will contact CAAHEP and Committee on Accreditation for Polysomnographic Technologist Education to confirm in writing that the Volunteer State West Tennessee program is accredited.

The Committee discussed the A-STEP program. Mrs. Lovitt made a motion to discontinue accepting any new trainee or technician (temporary) permits for the A-STEP program after January 18, 2012. Ms. Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried. Their decision was based on the fact that after that date an applicant would not be able to meet the required 9 to 18 months on-the-job training necessary prior to sitting for the BRPT-administered national examination. Mr. Samples made a motion to discontinue allowing applicants that have previously held a technician (temporary) permit to re-enroll in an A-STEP program. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and the motion carried. All trainees and/or holders of temporary permits as of January 18, 2012 may complete their A-STEP program in order to meet the requirements to sit for the national examination. Ms. Hughes-Toombs, advised the Committee that, based upon the statute, all applicants that apply for a

Polysomnography Technologist license in Tennessee after July 1, 2012 will be required to have graduated from a polysomnographic technologist educational program. The only exception will be those individuals who were practicing polysomnography on July 1, 2007. Those applicants will be granted licensure under the grandfather clause.

Update on BME's decision regarding Morning Capillary Blood Gas Test

The Committee was updated on the question of Polysomnography Technologists performing morning capillary blood gas tests on sleep center patients. Ms. Lovitt appeared at the November meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners and voiced the Committee's view that such testing was outside the scope and training of a Polysomnography Technologists. The Committee was advised that the Board of Medical Examiners, after carefully examining all aspects of the issue and hearing from representatives from other allied health professions, declined to authorize the expansion of the scope of practice of Polysomnography Technologists to include performing morning capillary blood gas testing.

Atlanta School of Sleep Medicine & Technology

The Committee decided that they would accept all applications from the Atlanta School of Sleep Medicine & Technology that had been processed by the administrative staff on or before January 18, 2012. All new applicants who complete the Atlanta program and apply for temporary license after January 18, 2012 will not be considered as qualified for a license in Tennessee.

These minutes were ratified by the Committee May 1, 2012.